

level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the Federal Government's tax obligation. In Fiscal Year 2001, the program will pay approximately 46 percent of the total amount required to cover the cost of the two formula driven sections of the Impact Aid Program—Section 8002 (Federal Property) and 8003 (Federally Connected Children).

The result of this shortfall is that the education of our military children and other federally dependant students is suffering. Over 90 percent of funding for education comes from local funds such as property taxes. But what happens if that property is owned by the federal government and is off the tax rolls? Kids report to class with no property tax dollars needed for their school.

In the average \$10 million American school district, \$9.3 million are raised from state and local taxes. This system works well when the children attending the local school live on property subject to local tax.

This system does not work well when the federal government houses many children on land not subject to tax—such as a military base or Indian reservation. In these schools, the children report to class without financial backing—too many of these kids and the school district can go bankrupt.

Impact Aid is critically important because it benefits all children within a school district, not only the children who reside on military bases, Indian lands or Federal Low Rent housing projects. In the United States, 1,397 school districts receive Impact Aid funding. Enrollment in these schools total 13.08 million students of which 1.19 million are federally impacted. This is a compelling detail, because without Impact Aid all children in these federally impacted school districts suffer.

In my district, 36 percent of all students attending North Chicago's School District 187 are Impact Aid children. School District 187 spends an average of \$6,500 per pupil on education, and herein lies the problem. The North Chicago school district receives only \$3,250 per pupil from the federal government for their Impact Aid children. With over 1,400 Impact Aid students, District 187 finds itself over \$4.5 million short in funding levels. This short fall creates a huge strain on the school district overall, decreasing the quality of education for every child in District 187.

While school administrators and teachers across the country appreciate Impact Aid payments, they are usually late and fail to cover the cost of all children attending school. For example, Highland Park's North Shore School District 112 spends approximately \$11,000 a year to educate a student. The Impact Aid program provides just \$500 per child. Local taxpayers living on civilian property must then pay the extra \$10,500 per year to educate that child. At this rate, many Impact Aid children entering a school can bankrupt an entire school district.

This nearly happened in North Chicago's School District 187. This community is home to Great Lakes Naval Training Center where 50,000 naval recruits are trained annually. Hundreds of children from military housing came into the local school district each year. Several years ago, District 187 nearly went bankrupt under the weight of children coming to school from property that cannot be taxed. Impact Aid payments had been late and inadequate. Thanks to the work of my predecessor, Congressman John Porter, this school

system was saved through additional appropriations.

The quickest way to take a soldier or sailor's mind off their mission, is to have them worrying about their children's education. Kids from military families come from some of the hardest working, most patriotic families, but the schools they attend sometimes face bankruptcy. This is because of the way we fund our nation's schools. Impact Aid honors our commitment to military families, and especially Native American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom are in turn protected by the federal government.

Our constitution commands that the first job of the federal government is to "provide for the common defense." As we improve the pay and benefits of men and women in uniform, we must also support their kids and the local schools they attend. This may take many years to accomplish but the time is now to support schools that educate the children whose parents wear our nation's uniform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcalls No. 33 and No. 34. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on both. I ask unanimous consent that this appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

RECOGNITION OF BRANDON MICHAEL KIMBLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Michael Kimble, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, earning the ranks of Tiger Cub, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. Over the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Brandon also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by becoming a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and receiving the God and Me Award, the God and Family Award, the Arrow of Light, and Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Additionally, Brandon has earned 38 merit badges, qualifying him for the Eagle Award, the Bronze Eagle Palm, the Gold Eagle Palm, and the Silver Eagle Palm.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brandon helped the city of Parkville, Missouri, comply with the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. His project involved spray-painting "drains to streams, don't pollute" on every storm sewer drain in the National and the Bluffs subdivi-

sions in Parkville. It is his hope that this will discourage illegal dumping of chemicals into the storm sewers, thereby lessening the risk of pollution in the receiving streams.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Michael Kimble for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ENCOURAGED TO PURCHASE PRODUCTS MADE BY BLIND AND SEVERELY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the record: For the past 64 years the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program has empowered Americans who are blind or severely disabled by providing them with a diverse set of employment opportunities. Today 38,000 disabled Americans are realizing their potential by working in their local communities across the country under this program. These Americans are proud to provide federal and military customers with a wide array of SKILCRAFT and other JWOD products and services. The JWOD Program prides itself on delivering high quality products and services at a competitive price in the most convenient way possible.

Some of the product categories offered by the JWOD program include office supplies, military specific, safety, maintenance, repair, medical-surgical, janitorial-sanitation, and customization. The services that are provided to the federal and military customer include but aren't limited to call center and switchboard operation, military base and federal office building supply centers, CD-Rom duplication-replication, data entry, document imaging and grounds care.

I rise today in support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program and the opportunities it provides for an underemployed population of hard working Americans. Furthermore, I urge my colleagues to purchase SKILCRAFT and JWOD products from the House-Senate Office Supply stores not only because of their quality and value, but also because of the socioeconomic benefits that can come from supporting the program. By purchasing these products and using these services we are enabling more disabled Americans to have the opportunity to become taxpayers. Today in Greensboro North Carolina, 68 blind Americans are employed under the JWOD Program and are producing items or services for us, the federal customer.

The JWOD Program is administered by the Presidentially-appointed Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, with much assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, which serves people with a wide range of disabilities. More than 650 local nonprofit agencies associated with NIB and NISH employ people who are blind or disabled to produce the quality products and offer the services authorized for sale to the federal government under the JWOD Program.

The JWOD Program is a great illustration of a successful partnership that has the ability to